**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

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James B. Spengler, Director

Park and Recreation Commission

November 25, 2014

Mayor William Euille
Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg
Councilman John Taylor Chapman   Re: Fort Ward Management Plan
Councilman Timothy B. Lovain
Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg
Councilman Justin M. Wilson

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members:

The Park and Recreation Commission urges you to adopt the Fort Ward Management Plan put forth by the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group. As you know, the Advisory Group worked from 2011 through October 2014 to review and consider the many current and desired uses of the park and to provide a framework for balancing the management of the natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources of the park. The result of their three years of work is contained in the Management Plan.

In addition to being represented in the Advisory Group and discussing the work of the group during regular meetings, the PRC participated in a joint public hearing on the draft Management Plan in September 2014. The PRC further reviewed the plan and discussed it at our regular September meeting, voting unanimously in support of it.

The Management Plan lays out the overall goals for the park and clearly defines the management roles of the various city departments in reaching those goals. This kind of strategic thinking and coordinated planning should result in a park of which the entire city can be proud. We commend the Advisory Group, which has now ended, for their dedication and hard work in creating this plan. With this clear direction, the city departments can now move forward to implement the plan and the existing citizen Commissions, including PRC, can provide the appropriate oversight.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Atkins   *Judy Coleman*
Jennifer Atkins and Judy Coleman, Co-Chairs
Park and Recreation Commission